

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 OMB-01 EB-11 /092 W  
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R 230842 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4068

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE DISSOLVED MAY 22 TO PAVE  
WAY FOR DIET NORMALIZATION

REF: A. TOKYO 6260

B. TOKYO 6237

SUMMARY: ELECTORAL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MET AT  
PRIME MINISTER' S RESIDENCE MAY 22 AND VOTED TO DISBAND. PRIMIN  
TANAKA ANNOUNCED DECISION, THUS REMOVING MAJOR OBSTACLE TO  
NORMALIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS STALLED SINCE MAY 11 BY OPPOSITION  
PARTIES BOYCOTT OF DIET. FOCUS SHIFTS TO ATTEMPTS TO ARRANGE  
MEETINGS OF OPPOSITION PARTY DIET POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN  
MAY 23, AND FRESH EFFORTS TO MEDIATE END OF BOYCOTT BY LOWER  
HOUSE SPEAKER UMEKICHI NAKAMURA. LDP DIET POLICY COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN ALSO SEEKING COOPERATION OF OPPOSITION PARTY  
COUNTERPARTS  
TO RESUME DELIBERATIONS. POLITICAL OBSERVERS FEEL, HOWEVER,  
THAT SERIES OF MEETINGS, POSSIBLY LASTING SEVERAL DAYS, MUST  
PRECEDE NORMALIZATION. END SUMMARY.

1. SIX OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF ELECTORAL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING  
COMMITTEE ( ONE RESIGNED) HELD THIRD MEETING AT PRIMIN RESIDENCE  
MAY 20. PRIMIN TANAKA ADVISED COMMITTEE OF ALTERNATIVES TO  
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CONTINUE WORK OR DISSOLVE SELF, WHICH MEMBERS THEN DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE BEFORE REPORTING TO HIM UNANIMOUS DECISION TO DISBAND. PRIMIN TANAKA THANKED MEMBERS FOR EFFORTS AND STATED FORMALLY BEFORE TV NEWS CAMERAS THAT COMMITTEE DISBANDED SAME DAY. THIS BEING VIEWED AS RETREAT BY PRIMIN AND VICTORY BY OPPOSITION PARTIES.

2. CHAIRMAN GENSABURO TAKADA EXPRESSED REGRET TO PRESS THAT COMMITTEE WORK ENDED UNDER THESE POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SUPPORTED ELECTORAL REFORM BUT NOTED LACK OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING. HE ALSO STRUCK NOTE MILDLY CRITICAL OF GOJ, SAYING ITS EFFORTS TO GAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT WERE NOT ADEQUATE.

3. MINISTER MASUMI ESAKI ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THAT ALL HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY PREPARATIONS TO DRAFT ELECTORAL REFORM BILLS HAVE ALSO BEEN HALTED.

4. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SUSUMU NAKAIDO CALLED ON LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER UMEKICHI NAKAMURA AND UPPER HOUSE PRESIDENT KENZO KONO TO INFORM THEM OFFICIALLY OF DISSOLUTION OF REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT NAKAMURA RESUME EFFORTS TO MEDiate END OF BOYCOTT BY OPPOSITION PARTIES.

5. NIKAIDO AND LDP DIET POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KEN HARADA CALLED ON EACH OF FOUR OPPOSITION PARTY DIET POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AT DIET TO EXPLAIN DECISION TO DISBAND MADE BY COMMITTEE AND ACCEPTED BY PRIMIN. HARADA REQUESTED THEIR COOPERATION IN NORMALIZING DIET PROCEEDINGS.

6. DSP REPORTED TO BE SATISFIED BY THIS ACTION AND READY TO SHOW FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE ON RESUMPTION OF DIET PROCEEDINGS. HOWEVER, OTHER THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES ( JSP, JCP AND KOMEITO) NOT YET READY TO DISMOUNT FROM WINNING HORSE AND HAVE INDICATED THAT KEY TO RESUMPTION OF NORMAL DIET PROCEEDINGS IS THAT MINISTER ESAKI TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAY 11 DIET STATEMENT, NOT BY RESIGNING BUT BY AGREEING TO EXPRESS SINCERE APOLOGY AND THAT LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER NAKAMURA ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY IN SOME MANNER FOR ROLE HE PLAYED IN CONVENING LOWER HOUSE TO VOTE 65- DAY DIET EXTENSION MAY 19 DESPITE ABSENCE OF ALL OPPOSITION MEMBERS.

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7. IN CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS OF NORMALIZATION, OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE EXPECTED TO PRESS FOR GOJ/ LDP PROMISE NOT TO EMPLOY TACTIC OF FORCING MAJORITY VOTE IN COMMITTEE ON KEY BILLS SUCH AS RAILWAY FARE INCREASE, DEFENSE AND HEALTH, BY WHICH DIET STEERING COMMITTEE REPORTED OUT EXTENSION LAST WEEK. GOJ/ LDP, HOWEVER, COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO HAND OVER THIS KIND OF BLANK CHECK TO

MINORITY, WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD CONSTITUTE POWERFUL VETO POWER  
OVER  
ALL LEGISLATION AT COMMITTEE LEVEL.

8. OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS HAVE INDICATED THAT ABOVE DISPOSITION  
OF LAST REMAINING ASPECTS OF ABORTIVE ELECTORAL REFORM PROPOSAL  
WILL NOT BRING TO END THEIR EFFORTS IN AND OUTSIDE DIET TO BRING  
DOWN PRIMIN TANAKA GOVERNMENT, AND TO BLOCK DIET PASSAGE OF  
RAILWAY FARE INCREASE AND HEALTH BILLS.

9. AS OF LATE AFTERNOON WEDNESDAY, LDP AND OPPOSITION PARTY  
DIET POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HAVE NOT YET MET TO BEGIN  
TIME CONSUMING PROCESS OF BRINGING DIET TOGETHER AGAIN.  
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